

Message Text

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43/44

ACTION EUR-25

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4892 VICE 4223)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESS SPOKESMEN

REF: ATHENS 4895

1. AT TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING DEPARTMENT INEVITABLY WILL FACE QUESTIONS CONCERNING ITS JUDGMENT ON WIDE VARIETY OF GREEK ISSUES. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL STATEMENT REGARDING POSITIVE U.S. REACTION TO NEW GOG ALONG LINES REFTTEL, SUGGEST SPOKESMEN LIMIT RESPONSE TO LOW KEY REPLY INDICATING THAT IT WILL BE FOR NEW GOG TO SHAPE AND ANNOUNCE THE POLICIES IT WILL FOLLOW. SPOKESMEN SHOULD REMIND QUESTIONERS THAT GREECE UNDERGOING A MAJOR REORIENTATION OF ITS POLICIES AND THAT TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO ESTABLISH ITS COURSE.

2. ADDITIONALLY, SPOKESMEN SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF THE RESTRAINT AND GOOD FAITH WHICH GREEK MILITARY HAVE SHOWN IN CYPRUS CRISIS. DESPITE TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN-LED GOVERNMENT, MILITARY REMAINS CRITICAL ELEMENT IN NEW GOVERNMENT'S EQUILIBRIUM. IN ANY QUESTIONS ON ROLE OF MILITARY, WE SHOULD

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CITE RESTRAINT SHOWN BY GREECE DURING RECENT CYPRUS CRISIS.

IF PRESSED FOR FURTHER COMMENT ON ROLE OF MILITARY IN NEW
GOG, WE SHOULD STRESS ANNOUNCEMENT MADE JULY 23 BY THE PRESI-
DENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC OF GREECE: QUOTE IN VIEW OF
THE EXTRAORDINARY CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY, THE ARMED
FORCES DECIDED TO ENTRUST THE RULE OF THE COUNTRY TO A
POLITICAL GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE
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